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Statement submitted by Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (Loving the Nation's Children Foundation), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

The YCAB way: a holistic approach towards a drug-free Indonesia

1. Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (YCAB) is an independent non-profit social foundation started in August 1999. Founded out of concern at the increasing incidence of drug abuse among Indonesia's youth, YCAB has focused mainly on primary drug prevention in schools and communities.

2. With the three strategic pillars of YCAB — promoting a healthful lifestyle through drug prevention and education for in-school children; Rumah Belajar, the Learning House for school dropouts and street children; and community development — we have faith that our path towards a drug-free Indonesia has become more holistic and structured.

Drug prevention and education in schools

3. In 10 years, YCAB has reached more than 871,085 young people in 10 cities across Indonesia. In 2008 alone, 367,001 young people were reached and trained as "change agents" through Youth against Drug Abuse (YADA) clubs. This programme has covered 1,394 schools, in eight major cities in the Jabodetabek area and in Bandung, Yogyakarta, Makassar and Manado. In addition, we have collected 14,196 e-mails and 134,266 mobile phone numbers of campaign participants in our database in order to conduct random samplings and research on the degree to which our programme has influenced the belief systems of young people and guided them in making decisions when faced with offers of drugs.

4. We believe that all of our programmes must be measurably effective. Therefore, we have conducted extensive research on the knowledge level of our campaign participants, before and after campaigns are conducted. We are encouraged to know that most of them gain a better understanding of the dangers of drug abuse after having participated in our programmes.

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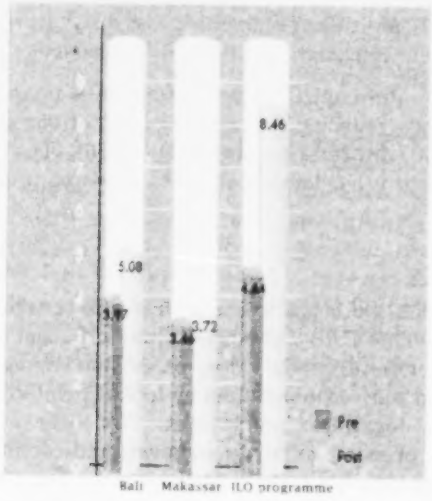
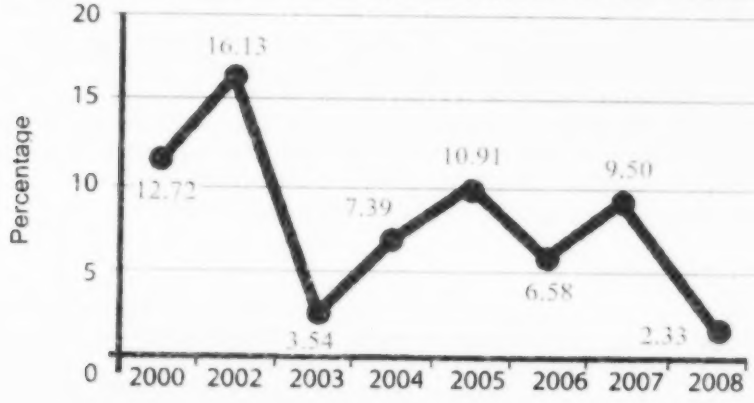
Figure I
Knowledge level of campaign participants



5. We also believe that there is a need to see the bigger picture of the trend towards drug experimentation among the young people in our society. Therefore, our research department has conducted a survey on this trend based on random samplings and questionnaires from our participants in Jakarta, asking them whether they have ever experimented with drugs.

6. Figure II below shows that in general, there has been a decrease in this trend.

Figure II
Level of drug experimentation among 12 to 16-year-olds in Jakarta, 2000-2008



7. The trend shows that, over the past eight years, there has been an overall decline in drug experimentation among young people. Thus, we can say that our campaign has, to some extent, met our expectations. However, we do not consider

this as a signal that we should reduce our campaign programme. To the contrary, we will have to intensify it, since the trend also shows some volatility in the level of drug experimentation among young people, indicating that they may require a close escort, so to speak, on their journey in order to resist drug abuse. Furthermore, we need to consider the fact that 12- to 16-year-olds change as they grow up. This means that the target audience of our campaign may need to be changed over time.

8. Over the years, we have also developed our prevention skills programme. In 2008, we succeeded in significantly reducing the cost per head of our prevention campaign, from Rp13,144 ($1.40) in 2004 to Rp4,981 ($0.50). That fact has encouraged us to enhance our ability by developing other kinds of programmes, which are described below.

Rumah Belajar (Learning House)

9. As our programmes developed, we began to see a clear link between poverty and drug abuse. Therefore, in 2003, YCAB established Rumah Belajar (Learning House) as an important component of our primary drug prevention strategy. Rumah Belajar offers affordable education and vocational training to street children in order to improve their lives through legitimate employment. We believe that, by enhancing the level of education of members of the impoverished community and by empowering them to help themselves, we can help them strive for a better and brighter future as individuals, members of a community and responsible citizens of Indonesia.

10. Since Rumah Belajar was established, in 2003, we have reached out to and taught more than 6,000 underprivileged school dropouts in six locations: Kebon Jeruk and Tegal Alur, in West Jakarta; Simprug Slump, in Central Jakarta; Koja, in North Jakarta; Cikarang, in West Java; and Aceh. A total of 2,099 children studied at our learning houses in 2008, and we have taught 1,865 students thus far in 2009.

11. More than half of our students are former street children who dropped out of formal schools long before they should have. The rest of them stopped going to school for economic reasons.

12. All students studying for packet A or packet C take the National Examination set by the Department of Education. We are very happy to send our graduates into the world, because approximately 80 per cent of our packet C graduates manage to secure employment. Even better news is that most of them earn more than our regional minimum wage. In addition, some of our graduates are able to pursue a higher education. In 2008, two students received full scholarships, from PT Asuransi Tokio Marine and Kasih Bangsa School of Economics, respectively.

Community development

13. The final step in our expansion has been to promote sustainable, income-generating development programmes in poor and disaster-stricken areas of Indonesia. These programmes contribute to improved health and better livelihoods in those communities.

14. Indonesia is still learning how to put its best foot forward in order to relieve the extreme poverty faced by a large percentage of its rural population — a problem compounded by the multiple natural disasters that we have experienced since 2005.

Our current efforts are focused on long-term sustainable development projects both in extremely impoverished areas and in areas devastated by natural disasters.

15. Research plays a vital preparatory role in this area of our work. Before we jump into what sometimes appear to be hopeless situations, we work hard to understand the situation faced by the community we are trying to help. The needs assessment carried out during the pre-project phase took longer than anticipated; more time was needed for the data collection and surveillance interview process, as well as for the analysis of all the data required by our Research Department. The difficulty resulted from the size and the nature of the communities involved in the study. The members of these communities were destitute, and their living arrangements were so improvised that tracking them was a great challenge. However, what is promising is that, in the midst of all of this, we managed to secure the cooperation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for conditional cash transfer programmes to benefit the poorest residents of Jakarta. This programme is aimed at reducing the number of street children in Koja district, in Tanjung Priok, North Jakarta, and to help provide education at the junior high school level for these underprivileged children.

Domestic roles

16. Nearly all the endeavours of YCAB have involved the National Narcotics Board, the governmental agency that deals with the issues of illegal drug abuse and trafficking in Indonesia. On 26 June every year, YCAB celebrates the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by conducting a street campaign entitled "Lights On". The Board always lends its full support to this event, which reaches hundreds of thousands of people.

17. Since 2004, the National Narcotics Board has also supported the YCAB initiative to hold a journalism competition. The contest, first conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and, since 2007, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), awards prizes to journalists as an expression of appreciation for their support for and contributions to the fight against drug abuse.

18. To celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the Sumpah Pemuda declaration, YCAB, together with the National Narcotics Board, held a ceremony attended by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono himself. YCAB participated in the drafting and reading of an anti-drug declaration by 400 Jakarta school students. Furthermore, YCAB was entrusted by the Board with hosting the National Youth Congress, which saw the participation of 90 young people from 28 provinces, during the month of December 2008.

International roles

19. After receiving special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 2007, YCAB was given the opportunity to represent Indonesian non-governmental organizations on an international scale.

20. In 2008, we became a lead organization for the South-east Asian, East Asian and Pacific regions at the Beyond 2008 Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Forum. The Beyond 2008 consultation process is a unique mechanism. For the first time since the drafting of the three international drug conventions, in 1961, 1971

and 1988, civil society was invited to contribute to discussions aimed at enhancing global understanding of the impact of the conventions and providing future direction for their implementation at the national level. The roles and responsibilities related to that endeavour involved developing, managing and hosting the Beyond 2008 regional consultation. During a meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna in 2008, we made a joint presentation to the NGO Forum on the drug situation in each region. We also attended a preliminary regional planning meeting on the margins of the 2007 session of the Commission. YCAB presented key findings from the regional consultation to the Beyond 2008 NGO Forum and also designated an NGO Committee Representative. This involved facilitating communication and management with regard to the planning and holding of the regional consultation, as well as acting as a liaison between the regional consultation leads and the Programme Committee of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.

21. We were privileged to represent the civil society sector and participate as delegates of the Republic of Indonesia in the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna from 11 to 20 March 2009.

International quality standard of management

22. In December 2008, YCAB received 9001:2000 certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The due diligence process had begun in 2007, and only after a rigorous process was this honour finally bestowed on us.

23. This was the first ISO certification, a quality standard related to operational and management practices, ever given to a local, Indonesia-based non-governmental organization. With this certificate, we hope to maintain the efficiency of our operations and a systematic process in our management in order to accelerate the betterment of our society.

Partnership

24. Over the years, YCAB has worked closely with many international partner organizations, such as UNODC, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNIC, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), ILO, the Colombo Plan secretariat and Wellspring. Our local partners include the National Narcotics Board, BNP, Yayasan Strada, Puskesmas Gambia, Habitat for Humanity, Next Step and Bina Nusantara University. In addition, we have been graciously supported by those in the private sector such as PT Multistrada Arah Sarana, PT Gajah Tunggal Tbk, Unilever, Telkomsel and Bimantara, and have received media assistance from the Media Group, MRA Group, the Prambors group, et cetera.

25. We are indeed thankful for all the support provided by our national and international partners, organizations, companies and individuals, in joining us in our quest to provide education regarding the dangers of drugs and to bring happiness and well-being to the lives of underprivileged families and children.